



ROCKPORT

Essex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Residents affirm that the Town of Rockport is a visitors' mecca located at the tip of Cape Ann. The town is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides with the City of Gloucester on the fourth side and is about 40 miles from Boston. The major industry is tourism and Rockport supports an active Chamber of Commerce. The population is 7000 year round, but during the summer months that can escalate to as high as 20,000.

Rockport has a five-member board of selectmen which meets weekly, a full-time police department and a volunteer fire department. The Department of Public Works is headed by a director and the town continues to work on improving its water supply. Rockport also maintains its own sewage treatment plant.

The Rockport Art Association is very active and there are a number of fine artists' studios and galleries about town. Bearskin Neck draws thousands of visitors to the many and varied shops. There are many hotels, motels, inns and restaurants, and visitors soon learn that Rockport is a dry town.

Other attractions include the sandy and rocky beaches, the Paper House, the Old Castle, the Historical Society Museum and the Babson Museum.

Recreation is promoted by Halibut Point State Park, Millbrook Meadow and various playing fields used by school as well as community leagues. A nationally known point of interest is Motif #1, a picturesque building on Bradley Wharf at the entrance to Rockport's main harbor which for decades has been painted, sketched and photographed by generations of artists.

Rockport has two other harbors where pleasure boats and fishing vessels moore.

The town has one school complex which includes K-12, and eight churches, and is renovating a former school building as a new library.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the north, east, and part of the south, and by Gloucester on the southwest and west. Rockport is about 37 miles north of Boston and 255 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 17.59 sq. miles

Land Area: 7.07 sq. miles

Population: 7,482

Density: 1,058 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Middleton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.6°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Rockport, Gloucester

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 546-6786

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1840

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,894		
Democrats	1,055	21.6	%
Republicans	896	18.3	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,943	60.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Rockport town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,767	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,767	100.0
Male.....	3,576	46.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	83	1.1
Female.....	4,191	54.0	Mexican.....	24	0.3
Under 5 years.....	365	4.7	Puerto Rican.....	12	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	442	5.7	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	539	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	44	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	422	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,684	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	226	2.9	White alone.....	7,549	97.2
25 to 34 years.....	651	8.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,254	16.1	Total population.....	7,767	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,417	18.2	In households.....	7,689	99.0
55 to 59 years.....	516	6.6	Householder.....	3,490	44.9
60 to 64 years.....	364	4.7	Spouse.....	1,674	21.6
65 to 74 years.....	719	9.3	Child.....	2,010	25.9
75 to 84 years.....	591	7.6	Own child under 18 years.....	1,564	20.1
85 years and over.....	261	3.4	Other relatives.....	224	2.9
Median age (years).....	44.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	68	0.9
18 years and over.....	6,113	78.7	Nonrelatives.....	291	3.7
Male.....	2,715	35.0	Unmarried partner.....	142	1.8
Female.....	3,398	43.7	In group quarters.....	78	1.0
21 years and over.....	5,947	76.6	Institutionalized population.....	78	1.0
62 years and over.....	1,759	22.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	1,571	20.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	598	7.7	Total households.....	3,490	100.0
Female.....	973	12.5	Family households (families).....	2,029	58.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	850	24.4
One race.....	7,706	99.2	Married-couple family.....	1,674	48.0
White.....	7,591	97.7	With own children under 18 years.....	689	19.7
Black or African American.....	21	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	265	7.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	17	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	135	3.9
Asian.....	35	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	1,461	41.9
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	1,266	36.3
Chinese.....	11	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	581	16.6
Filipino.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	895	25.6
Japanese.....	12	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,155	33.1
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	2.20	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.93	(X)
Other Asian ¹	2	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	4,202	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,490	83.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	712	16.9
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	550	13.1
Some other race.....	40	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	61	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,490	100.0
White.....	7,644	98.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,241	64.2
Black or African American.....	42	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,249	35.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	38	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.47	(X)
Asian.....	46	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.73	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	0.1			
Some other race.....	56	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 104

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 153



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Rockport is located in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 127, which connects up with State Route 128, the inner belt around Boston.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Rockport. Travel time: 66-73 min.; 88 MBTA parking spaces.

Bus

Rockport is a member of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA), which provides a Dial-A-Ride service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility in neighboring Beverly, has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Rockport Art Association

12 Main Street

(978) 546-6604

Sandy Bay Historical Society & Museums

40 King Street

(978) 546-9533

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Den Mar Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.